

tense	modal	modal	verb stem	gloss
preserv	preter	preter		
b			ɖɛ-ɖɛ	'she/he made him/her'
ɾ	ɖɾ		ɖɛʔC*	'she/he was thus skillful, cunning'
ɖ			ɖɛɾɾɛ	'she/he fools, tricks him/her'
			ɔC*	'she/he went to it'
ɖɛɾɾɛ			ɖɛɾɾɛ	'she/he said it'
ɔ	ɖɔ		ɾɾɔ	'we shall not eat'

- 144% aggregate fluency improvement
  - Mother tongue literacy is an extremely high cultural value
  - Improvement of both perceived and actual reading ability
- B. Things proven and not proven**
- Three weeks of reading instruction and practice equals improvement
- Teaching grammar to adults helps their reading - probably

# Developing Naskapi Grammatical Awareness and its Effect on Adult Literacy

4th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation  
Poster Session, Friday, February 27, 2015 12:30–1:30 p.m. HIBISCUS FOYER (P2.5)

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This is a presentation of research exploring how Naskapi grammatical awareness can be developed, providing insight into the form that pedagogical grammatical instruction should take, to equip Naskapi adults to become adequately literate in their mother tongue. The teaching method incorporates a grammatical description crafted to help speakers attain successful literacy in their own language, applied in the context of reading meaningful texts.

Topic area: *Teaching/learning small languages*

## OUTLINE

### I. Introduction

- A. Hypothesis
- B. The Naskapi Situation
  - Location, population, demographics
  - Language, writing system, literacy

### II. Reading Theory and Practice

- A. Theoretical continua
  - Whole Language
  - Phonics
- B. Adams Model of Skillful Reading
  - Orthographic processing
  - Meaning processing
  - Context processing
  - Phonological processing

### III. Methodology

- A. Incorporating Grammar into Text-Based Reading Instruction
  - Post-Secondary Naskapi Course
  - Grammatical Resource
- B. Grammar in Naskapi Reading Instruction Demonstrated
  - Discovery stage, nouns
  - Analysis stage, nouns
  - Discovery stage, verbs
  - Analysis stage, verbs
- C. Results Observed
  - Quantitative Results: Fluency Measurements
  - Qualitative/Mixed Research Methodology: Participant Questionnaires

### IV. Evaluation and Conclusion

- A. Summary of Results
  - 144% aggregate fluency improvement
  - Mother tongue literacy is an extremely high cultural value
  - Improvement of both perceived and actual reading ability
- B. Things proven and not proven
  - Three weeks of reading instruction and practice equals improvement
  - Teaching grammar to adults helps their reading - possibly

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